

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SOFIA 0516

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, PFOR, PROP, BU, UR

SUBJECT: V-E DAY CELEBRATIONS

REF: A) STATE 054046; B) MOSCOW 3569; C) SOFIA 0411

1. CALLED MARCH 18 ON DEPUTY FORMIN ZAKHARIEVA WHO IN ADDITION TO SUPERVISING AMERICA DEPARTMENT IS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR PRESS AND INFORMATION AFFAIRS. PRIMARY PURPOSE WAS TO COMMUNICATE TEXT OF PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER OF FEBRUARY 25 TO CHAIRMAN ZHIVKOV, WHICH WILL BE FORMALLY HANDED OVER TO CHAIRMAN OF ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (WHO IS ALSO MEMBER OF STATE COUNCIL) DURING MOON ROCK PRESENTATION CEREMONY MARCH 21. THEN I WENT INTO MATTER OF VE-DAY CELEBRATIONS.

2. I SAID, FIRST, THAT HOW BULGARIA CELEBRATES VE-DAY IS OF COURSE ITS OWN AFFAIR. WE HAD NOTICED THE THEMES SET OUT FOR THE VARIOUS CEREMONIES, AND IT HAD
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OCCURRED TO US THAT VE-DAY WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT

OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE ALSO WHAT WAS PROBABLY THE GREATEST COOPERATIVE ENDEAVOR BETWEEN EAST AND WEST OF ALL TIME. GIVEN OUR MUTUAL INTEREST IN STRESSING DETENTE (AND HERE I MENTIONED THE FACT THAT SOVIETS AS PER REF B ARE STRESSING "IMPORTANCE OF DEEPENING DETENTE" AS ONE OF THEIR VE-DAY THEMES), IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF THIS OPPORTUNITY WERE LOST. I ADDED THAT IT DOES NOT DIMINISH THE TREMENDOUS EFFORT AND SACRIFICES MADE IN WORLD WAR II BY THE USSR TO COMMEMORATE THAT FACT THAT WESTERN ALLIES ALSO MADE GREAT EFFORTS TOWARD THE COMMON PURPOSE.

3. ZAKHARIEVA ASKED IF I WAS GIVING MY OWN VIEWS OR SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS. I SAID (REFTEL A) THAT MY VIEWS REFLECTED THINKING IN WASHINGTON. SHE THEN SAID THEME OF INTER-ALLIED COOPERATION IS ALREADY BEING STRESSED. I SAID THIS MAY BE SO, BUT RABOTNICHESKO DELO HAD ONLY TWO DAYS AGO CARRIED ARTICLE THAT SYSTEMATICALLY DENIGRATED THE WESTERN WAR EFFORT. SHE THEN SAID QUITE CANDIDLY THAT BULGARIANS WOULD BE CELEBRATING NOT ONLY VE-DAY BUT ALSO "CREATION OF ANTI-FASCIST INSTITUTIONS AND BASIS FOR SOCIALIST COOPERATION WHICH GO BACK TO 1945 AND HAVE CONTINUING LIFE TODAY". I SAID THIS IS ANOTHER ASPECT OF CELEBRATIONS, WE UNDERSTAND THERE WOULD BE SEVERAL THEMES; BUT WHEN CHAIRMAN ZHIVKOV INVITES MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS TO A CELEBRATION AT WHICH HE WILL GIVE KEYNOTE SPEECH, IT IS NATURAL THAT US, AS A WARTIME ALLY OF THE USSR AND AS COUNTRY THAT ALSO WISHES TO SEE DETENTE BECOME IRREVERSIBLE, WILL BE LISTENING TO SEE IF THE ASPECT OF WARTIME COOPERATION WITH THE WEST WILL BE MENTIONED. FORTUNATELY, THERE IS STILL AMPLE TIME TO CONSIDER SUCH THINGS.

4. ZAKHARIEVA SAID AGAIN SHE SAW NO PROBLEM. WHAT I WAS SUGGESTING WAS ALREADY POLICY. I SAID IN THAT CASE IT WOULD BE ALL THE EASIER TO MAKE IT A BIT PLAINER TO SEE. DURING WORLD WAR II BULGARIA DECLARED WAR ON THE US BUT NOT ON THE USSR. LATER IT FOUGHT, TOGETHER WITH THE USSR, AGAINST NAZI GERMANY. ALTHOUGH WE WERE CONFIDENTIAL

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NOT ON THE SPOT IN EASTERN EUROPE, AT THAT TIME WE WERE ALSO FIGHTING THE COMMON ENEMY, AND MAKING A RATHER CONSIDERABLE EFFORT. IF THIS IS BROUGHT OUT, IT CAN ONLY HELP DETENTE.

5. COMMENT: I DID NOT THINK IT WISE TO BRING UP AMERICAN ASSISTANCE TO THE USSR DURING WORLD WAR II, BUT IT IS NOTEWORTHY THAT THE ARTICLE REFERRED TO IN PARA 3

TRIED TO DENIGRATE THAT ASSISTANCE BY SAYING IT AMOUNTED
TO ONLY 4 PERCENT OF TOTAL SOVIET WAR PRODUCTION.
THERE WOULD OF COURSE BE SEVERAL GOOD ANSWERS TO THAT
ARGUEMENT, BUT A DISPUTE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF AMERI-
CAN WARTIME AID TO THE USSR IS NOT ONE THAT WE COULD
WIN HERE. IT IS BETTER TO STRESS THE MORE ELEMENTARY
FACT THAT WE HAD A DETENTE OF SORTS DURING THOSE WAR
YEARS AND THAT BOTH SIDES BENEFITED FROM IT.
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